



Missoula County Sheriff's Dept
200 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

C.C. Ibsen

Sheriff

DATE

1/19/11

Missoula County Sheriff's

Department

406-258-3312 Office

406-531-0301 Cellular

e-mail: cibsen@co.missoula.mt.us

FAX: (406) 721-8575

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Chairman Shockley
Honorable Members Of Senate Judiciary

I would like to thank Senator Hinkle for introducing SB 10.

This is an important and timely bill. It deserves to be passed by your committee. The modifications it makes to existing law are appropriate and will save lives.

I have been a law enforcement officer in Missoula for more than 38 years. In that time I have arrested hundreds of intoxicated drivers. In that time I have encountered more death, injury and destruction than I care to remember, yet I am unable to forget any of it. All the images in my mind, all the death, all the suffering is with me forever. Neither can the families of the victims these intoxicated murderers and maimers ever forget. I joined the growing number of victim families when my wife, Judy Wang, was killed by such a driver less than 16 months ago.

Intoxicated drivers do not magically appear at 30 or 35 years of age or older. They learn their habits as teenagers. This sets them in an unfortunately lifelong pattern. SB 10 will help to persuade our youngsters that impaired driving is not the course they want their lives to take.

I believe that this bill, SB 10, is a leap forward in Montana's work of holding these criminals accountable for their crimes and in reducing the number of victims.

As a few of these criminals receive their sentences, under SB 10, the word will go out that Montana is SERIOUS about curbing the mayhem committed on society by such criminals.

Driving is not a right. It is a privilege. You get to drive if you follow the rules and if you do not cause undue hazard or harm to others.

Please give your support and backing to SB 10.

Respectfully,

CC Ibsen